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NSC REFERRAL NOT REQUIRED

September 26, 1963

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

In reading Max Freedman's column in the Los Angeles Times today, I could believe that much bickering and conflict existed between the State Department, Defense Department and the CIA concerning South Viet-Nam and other countries.

Later today I heard radio commentator William Winter, who openly accuses the CIA of setting policy and initiating practices which violate human dignity and defeat State Department political strategy. Further, Mr. Winter states the CIA actively engages in bringing about the downfall of heads of foreign governments who openly endeavor to break feudalistic powers through land reform, social movement, or even neutrality and compromise. The countries and geographical areas he named included among others, Iran, South Viet-Nam, Laos, the Caribbean, and Central America.

It seems incredulous to me that a department (CIA) of this government can create policy and initiate action which violates U. S. policy without covert approval of higher authority. It seems incredulous too, that the CIA should be completely autonomous to the extent that it need not coordinate its actions with other departments. Yet these are the accusations being made.

Is then the CIA a victim of repertorial sensationalism? Or could it be the scapegoat of the nation's mistakes, i.e., the Bay of Pigs? Or is it true that it acts autonomously, and within itself acts as a department of state and defense with the power and authority to make limited war, to compromise, and to decide who is the proper person to be the head of government of a foreign state, and what should be that nation's political, social and economic policies? I do not know, but it seems to me the citizens of this nation will want an answer to these questions.

Cordially,

Merl Shields

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

STOP

CONFIDENTIAL

23 OCT 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Suggested Handling of Letters to
White House re CIA

REFERENCE: White House Letters Forwarded to CFE (attached)

We suggest that the best way to handle these letters is for The White House to send brief notes to the writers, expressing appreciation for their interest and concern on a matter of national security. Along with this, we recommend a brief mention that the CIA is part of the White House team and inclusion with the letter of reply to each writer enclosure of the President's recent press statement concerning the Agency.



Chief, Far East Division

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Attachment
Ref Letters (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Ch/FE Div		M
2	FE/CA		OK
3			
4			
5			
6			

<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

For your info and/or any action
you deem appropriate.

1 to 2. Charlie, suggest we send
similar answer to last letter.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
	16 Oct 63
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL
SECRET	

FORM NO. 2-61 237 Use previous editions

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ILLEGIB

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 9 Dec 53
TO: Mr. 		
ROOM NO. ER	BUILDING	
REMARKS: <p style="text-align: center;">These came in while I was in training - although they were forwarded to C/FE and others for comment - I do not think answers or other action is needed. Return to files.</p>		
FF 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>	
ROOM	EXTENSION	

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

GPO : 1957-O-439445 (47)